



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

*A Message from the Governor:*

# *Thanksgiving Day*

*November 25, 2021*

*Beginning with the inaugural Thanksgiving meal in celebration of the Mayflower settlers' first harvest in the New World, American families across our nation have gathered around the table on the fourth Thursday of every November to celebrate and give thanks for all that we hold dear and to appreciate the sometimes overlooked, yet always important, facets of life.*

*Since that first feast, Thanksgiving has become a widely celebrated national holiday that revolves around family, friends, football, and food. Still, we must not forget that first Thanksgiving in Plymouth was a simple harvest festival, attended by Native Americans and Pilgrims alike. That image, of Pilgrims and Native Americans joining together in a spirit of thanksgiving, remains an American symbol which reminds us of the importance of gratitude, generosity, and unity among the many people from diverse cultures and backgrounds who continue to call this land home, as well as the importance of sharing and giving thanks with our friends and neighbors.*

*Texans enjoy many blessings the likes of which those early Americans could have only dreamed. Still, like our early American ancestors, we continue to face challenges in our modern world. We are extremely fortunate to live in a free society that allows us to speak our minds, select our leadership, and worship where and how we please, but we must continue to work hard to ensure that we ensure a better and brighter future for our next generation.*

*Today, I am personally thankful that Texas remains a beacon of freedom, where we all may enjoy liberty, security, and the opportunity to strive and build the best lives we can for ourselves and our families.*

*As you gather with your loved ones to give thanks and enjoy a magnificent feast, I encourage everyone to take time to reflect upon the challenges we have overcome, the work that remains before us, and all the joys in our lives and the freedoms we enjoy here in the Lone Star State.*

*First Lady Cecilia Abbott and I join you in a spirit of thanksgiving today and always.*

*Sincerely,*

Greg Abbott  
Governor